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My Military intelligence connection began after I was ordered to active duty with the 30th Field Artillery at Camp Roberts, California, in May 1941 and I was assigned as regimental S-2. We had several Nisei in our outfit that I knew.

Following Pearl Harbor our regiment was ordered to Camp Murray, Washington (adjoining Ft. Lewis) and thence shipped by troopship and train to the Alaska Defense Command at Ft. Richardson, Alaska. There we were housed in tents 5 miles north of Elmendorf Field.

The Japanese Army at that time had just landed on Attu and Kiska in the Aleutians and already was sweeping down through Indo China, Malaysia and the East Indies. We reasoned that after the landing on Kiska and Attu they would follow the same strategy down the Aleutian Peninsula. It was on this account that I first began wrestling with the Japanese language on my own, feeling that since I was now the regimental intelligence officer, I ought at least to have some basic familiarity with the Japanese language in case of combat.

At Ft. Richardson I was able to find an ancient Rose Innes English-Japanese phrase book. I started memorizing vocabulary, useful phrases and military terms. I also listened frequently to Radio Tokyo (Japanese language broadcasts). This helped ~~me~~ to give me a sense of the rhythm and proper feel of the language, although I could of course understand little of the meaning. I was, however, already slightly familiar with Japan and Japanese culture having visited Japan previously. In addition my wife, Dorothy, had sent me some Japanese language records that I played repeatedly. Also, I made my own English@Japanese dictionary.

After about six months of this after-hours study, I was promoted to Post Intelligence Officer at Ft. Richardson, where I continued my studies, again after hours.

The big break came when a large contingent of Nisei interpreters from Camp Savage was sent up to the Alaska Defense Command in preparation for the Kiska operation. I immediately went up to ADC headquarters and introduced myself to Capt. White, the officer in command of the language unit, to see if it were possible to have one of the interpreters tutor me after hours. To my great good fortune and pleasure, they were all eager to help me. It was at this juncture that my Japanese language studies really took off. With the aid of these Camp Savage graduates (Yabanjin) I commenced to develop a basic fluency in conversational Japanese. In the course of many hours during the next few weeks, not only did I receive help in conversational Japanese and heigo vocabulary, I got to know and admire these young Nisei non-coms and soldiers. Also I gained a great deal of valuable insights into Japanese character, customs and culture,

most of which I assume they had learned from their Issei parents and grandparents. These drills continued at Ft. Richardson even after both the Attu and Kiska operations had ended.

As a result of these studies in January, 1944, I was ordered to MISLS, Camp Savage where I was duly enrolled in an all-Nisei class. Very shortly the sensei learned my secret--that while I had a minimal speaking facility in the language, I did not know enough Kanji to put in one's ear! Col. Rasmussen decided that I should be shipped off to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and sent to basic schooling with the Hakujin students.

After six months at Michigan it was decided by headquarters that I should be sent back to Minneapolis (MISLS Ft. Snelling) for advanced training. At Snelling my company commander (school battalion) was none other than the late and famous U.S. Senator Sparky Matsunaga. After six months at Snelling I was graduated and ordered to the Pentagon and assigned to the Civil Censorship Group. The Group first dispatched me to Hawaii, where I was given the secret assignment of recruiting and processing a detachment of about ³⁰ civilian Nikkei men and women to be sent to Okinawa as soon as it could be secured. I toured the backlands and sugar cane fields with a jeep and driver to scout out those with a scholarly background, often where least expected.

Originally located at Ft. Mason, San Francisco, Civil Censorship Group was later transferred to Camp Stoneman, California, where I was placed in command of the Group. At Stoneman we started receiving Snelling Nisei graduates. This was my final assignment, commanding the Intelligence School, until V-J Day arrived. We established and conducted a specialized intelligence training program for these graduates of Snelling. All told we trained around 700 graduates, as I recall. It was during this period that I had the most extensive and direct contact with the MIS Nisei officers, non-coms and soldiers. My admiration and respect for these young men only increased.

After I was separated from the Army and returned to civilian life as a country lawyer in Oregon, I joined the JACL and formed many close associations with Nisei veterans, particularly those who had served with the 442nd.

Looking back at my total experience I would say that the first thing that struck me about the MIS Nisei soldiers in Alaska was that they had been willing to volunteer to help our country in time of desperate need, notwithstanding that the same government had ordered their "relocation" and confinement under Executive Order 9066.

My second impression was of the professional and exemplary way they went about doing their respective duties as soldiers and intelligence personnel. They performed their assigned tasks without hesitation or complaint.

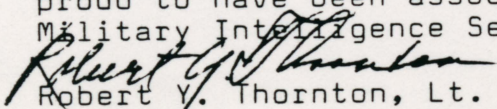
Additional impressions of them were gained at Camp Savage, Ft. Snelling, Camp Stoneman and later, post-war, as civilians out of uniform. I was profoundly impressed with the wonderful warmth, kindness and respect with which they treated their Issei parents and grandparents and their attitude toward, and respect for ~~for~~ the law and their duties as citizens. In fact it was the practically zero crime rate of the Nikkei community that helped motivate me recently to undertake a four-year, comparative in-depth study of crime prevention methods and strategies in America and Japan.

As a lawyer and public official (Attorney General of Oregon for 16 years) involved in the criminal justice process, I had naturally often pondered why some people in our society are motivated to commit crimes while most others are not. My 12 years as a Judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals gave me further connection with crimes and legal problems of our day. Similarly, I was anxious to learn why the Issei plainly had had so much greater success in instilling self-discipline and respect for authority in their children than many of us Hakujin. Why, for example in the more than 2000 criminal appeals we handled on the Court of Appeals were there only three cases involving persons of Japanese ancestry--three Sansei who were charged with selling marijuana? This study eventually led to our recently completed book, "Preventing Crime in America and Japan", with Katsuya Endo, soon to be published by M.E. Sharpe publishing company of New York.

As I mentioned in earlier correspondence with you, the chapter in our book dealing with "Cultural Differences" includes a series of interviews with Oregon Nisei in which I quizzed them about the reasons behind their zero crime rate. As I have learned in the course of these studies, this is in all probability part of the cultural values and norms that their Issei parents had brought with them from Japan when they emigrated to America; that these traits were in turn passed to their Nisei children.

Since returning to civilian life I have taken an extensive part in hosting and entertaining countless visitors from Japan (Sister City programs, student exchanges, dignitaries, testifying on the Redress Bill, helping Nihonjin war brides, etc.) As a guest professor in a Japanese college I have often told Japanese audiences stories of the MISers, the 100 Battalion and the 442nd RCT.

Reflecting back on all this goodwill activity, (I received the Order of the Sacred Treasure from the Emperor in 1976) and as I have said publicly before, I suppose my hospitality and involvement has been in significant measure indirectly due to my esteem for the Nikkei, which all began with my association with the Yabanjin in World War II and in appreciation for the indispensable role which they (and the 100th and 442nd) played in the U.S. victories in the Pacific and Europe. Truly they proved their loyalty and patriotism for all time to come, and I am exceedingly proud to have been associated with them in the U.S. Army and the Military Intelligence Service.


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